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INTRODUCTION: Comment from monitored European sources on the ECLA conference at Havana which began on 29 May and ended on 11 June, is non-existent, while Latin American media offer only a few advance references of limited local interest, mostly announcing that this or that official has been appointed to, or has departed for, the conference.

Soviet comment,* also light on the subject of the conference as such, is integrated into the major theme of "Yankee imperialism" and its schemes to bring Latin America under its heel. A broadcast by commentator Sergeeva, who jointly attacks the ECLA conference in Havana and the ILO regional meeting at Montevideo, sets the pace by stating that "the U.S. plan for the development of backward territories aims solely at enslaving the colonial countries and ensuring the hegemony of the American monopolies." (in French, 14 June 1949)

Later, there is a TASS report--repeated by an anonymous commentator over Moscow's "Latin American Listening Post"--that the ECLA conference "closed down without having accomplished any practical measures towards alleviating the increasing economic difficulties in the majority of the Latin American countries." (TASS, in English Morse to Europe, 16 June; Moscow Overseas Service, in Spanish voice to Latin America, 20 June)

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U.N. Groups Help U.S. Exploit Latin America: On the surface, says commentator Sergeeva, the Havana conference had the "highly respectable" task of implementing the Truman plan for aiding backward areas, but in reality, the aim of the American plan is to "provide the American monopolies with suitable conditions for penetrating colonial countries." And speaking in the same breath of ILC's Montevideo conference, she adds that this conference "was held officially for the purpose of examining the problem of the industrialization of South America, but in fact to transform ILO into an instrument for the economic expansion of the United States in South America."

"One may ask what need the United States has of international bodies such as the U.N. and ILO to penetrate into South America, where they are already at home, as it were. The explanation is that the enormous appetites of the monopolies encounter considerable difficulties in these countries: American capital stifles the national industries; American monopolies get hold of raw materials, exploit the people, and hamper the industrial development of the countries of South America. In these circumstances, opposition to U.S. imperialism represents a real danger, and perfidious plans must be made to chain the backward countries." (in French, 14 June 1949)

The above-mentioned 20 June broadcast (in Spanish to Latin America) seems to combine the TASS statement of 16 June, that the conference adjourned without any practical results, with large segments of the Sergeeva commentary quoted above. "In appearance," it says, "the plan discussed in Havana is praiseworthy. ... But in reality, its true purpose is very different, as has been revealed not by ECLA but by the press controlled by the American monopolies."

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